

The Prentice Bulletin

The Prentice Centre
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No **17**

PCC Amalgamates with Audio-Visual Services

The Prentice Computer Centre amalgamates with the Division of Audio-Visual Services on 1 January 1991.

The new organisation will be known as **The Prentice Centre**.

The Prentice Centre will be a central focus for computing and related technology on and off the St Lucia campus.

We have a huge range of services to assist you in teaching and research at work, as well as at home.

History

With the retirement of Mr Reg Hardwig (Director of Division of Audio-Visual Services) in 1990, the University decided to review the role and function of the Division of Audio-Visual Services. A committee, headed by Professor Cliff Hawkins, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Biological Sciences) was established to investigate possible options. The committee submitted a report to the Academic Resources Planning Committee (ARPC) for consideration. The ARPC have approved the implementation of the first stage of the report. The Prentice Computer Centre is to amalgamate with the Division of Audio-Visual Services to form one organisation.

The new organisation is to be called The Prentice Centre with the official merger on 1 January 1991. The Prentice Centre will unite users of similar technology previously separated by organisational boundaries. The Centre will be the focus for computing and related technology on and off the St Lucia campus. A range of services will be available to staff and students, as well as Corporate Services such as Network infrastructures and Lecture Room services. The amalgamation will be gradual, but there will be some immediate changes.

Internal Sections

The Division of Audio-Visual Services has four sections which must be amalgamated with the Prentice Computer Centre to form the new organisation. There are areas of overlap and so they require restructuring.

Some sections will remain the same. Other sections have been created or modified. For example, specialist Medical and Dental Photography staff are being transferred to the control of the Health Science Group and will not be part of The Prentice Centre.

From 1 January 1991, the initial sections of The Prentice Centre along with their roles will be as set out below. However, there may be some significant changes to this organisation early in the New Year as roles of the sections are reconsidered.

Network Engineering

This existing section managed by Graham Rees is responsible for the campus computer network, UQNet. This network provides access to mainframe computers, Administration and Library systems, and to the Australian academic network, AARNet. Services to the University include network design, installation, and maintenance.

Technical Services

This new section is a combination of the Prentice Computer Centre's PC support staff with the maintenance staff from the TV Unit, the staff for the Central Video Replay System, and the Audio-Visual Equipment Pool staff. Technical Services will also have the responsibility for all Lecture Room and Conference Services under the management of Alan Langdon.

Media Production

John Coker will manage this new section which will combine Photography, TV Production, and Graphic Design.

Information Technology

This existing section is responsible for Applications Development (including design and development of software packages, data entry, typesetting and desktop publishing), and the Centre's Education Courses. During 1991 the range of courses will expand to cover network growth, spreadsheets and any new services. New courses will be offered to undergraduate students.

Central Computing Services

Staff in this section are mainly computer programmers and operators. Services to the University include the PC Lab, mainframe computer accounts, mainframe services (e.g., printing), the program library, MCQ exam processing, character and image scanning, and computer media conversion.

User Liaison and Marketing

This section will continue to promote the services provided by the new Centre to both the University and external commercial clients. It hopes to provide a focus for the Centre's overall activities and a channel of communication between the Centre and the community.

Finance and Administration

This existing section provides financial, contract management, stores, personnel services and a range of administrative support services to other functional sections of the Centre.

Location

The Prentice Centre will be housed in the Prentice Building (building no 42 on University maps). The Graphic Artist and the Audio-Visual Equipment Pool are already located in the Prentice Building.

TV Production Unit staff are still in the Avalon Theatre. Plans are underway to move Photography Unit, TV Production and Television Maintenance Services into the Prentice Building in the future.

Immediate Price Changes

The amalgamation will introduce a move to real money charging for many services previously available on a "no charge" basis. This means The Prentice Centre will recover the time and money it spends in providing services. Services previously free or subsidised will gradually move to full cost recovery charging. Some charges have already been restructured on an interim basis as follows and will apply from 1 January 1991.

Charging by the TV Production Unit

The University of Queensland work	\$30 per hour (<i>for every half hour or part thereof</i>)
Other Tertiary Institution work	\$500 per day plus all expenses and materials (<i>for every half day or part thereof</i>)
External work	\$750 per day plus all expenses and materials (<i>for every half day or part thereof</i>)

Photography

Printing jobs required in less than the standard service times	100% surcharge
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In the future...

The range of services provided by the new organisation is extensive. As services are examined, there will be some restructuring of the organisation to rationalise functions and improve efficiency of our services. There are already plans for another section, Multimedia Technologies. A small group of staff will be drawn from both the computing and audio-visual areas into this new section to develop skills and new services in computer graphics and multimedia presentations. The group will establish a computer graphics laboratory for academic use; it will trial remote video teaching for the medical faculty; it will develop and trial electronic presentation systems for lecture theatre use.

The move towards full cost recovery will require careful management. Most charges will be revised and updated.

The Prentice Centre will strive for advanced technology and increased efficiency to provide new and better services for the University.

More information

If you need to know more about the amalgamation of Prentice Computer Centre with the Division of Audio-Visual Services, telephone:

365 3521 or 365 3630	Director, The Prentice Centre
365 1735 or 365 2430	Manager, Media Production (John Coker)
